

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of our amendment, Lee/Meijer number three eight seven, to express the sense of Congress that Authorizations for the Use of Military Force should include sunset provisions.

I want to thank my cosponsors, including Congressman MEIJER, and Chairmen SMITH and MCGOVERN for their support to permit me to offer this amendment.

Under our Constitution, Congress has the unique responsibility of oversight authority over the use of military force. Congress should maintain authority over when and how the United States wages war. And we should insist that the executive branch have a clear plan, objective and time limit for these authorizations.

The purpose of a sunset clause is not to withdraw our military before it has achieved its goal. Rather, it is to make sure that Congress, as the people's elected representatives, exercises our responsibility to ensure any use of military force is supported by and serves the interests of the American people.

Legal experts from across the ideological spectrum support the inclusion of sunset provisions in AUMFs. And Congressionally-required sunsets are not a new idea. Congress has included sunset provisions in 29 percent of prior authorizations for use of military force and declarations of war.

A sunset is not any sign of lack of American resolve. Congress has shown it can and will act quickly and decisively when core American interests and values are at stake. In 1941 and again in 2001, Congress acted within twenty-four hours of the President's request for authority to wage war.

I include in the Record an article written by Dr. Tess Bridgeman regarding the importance of AUMF sunset provisions. Dr. Bridgeman is a former legal advisor to the White House and State Department, and an expert on the constitutional law regarding war powers. Dr. Bridgeman writes:

"Arguably far more important than any potential signal that might be sent to a foreign adversary, a reauthorization requirement sends a very real and important signal to our own troops: Congress supports the war effort you are engaged in and has taken a tough vote to authorize it. And if you are brave enough to fight, we are brave enough to vote."

Madam Speaker, this amendment is a reasonable expression of Congress' role and the founders' intent on matters of war and peace. We cannot write blank checks to the executive branch. Requiring AUMFs to include sunsets ensures that any use of war powers is in line with the views and priorities of the American

people, expressed through the ballot box. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and support the principle that wars must have an end.

[From Just Security, July 13, 2022]

IN SUPPORT OF SUNSETS: EASY YES VOTES ON AUMF REFORM

(By Tess Bridgeman)

As Congress readies for votes on the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), several amendments related to authorizations for use of military force (AUMFs) merit attention as easy "yes" votes that could help restore Congress' congressional authority over when to take the nation to war. Three of these are simply long-overdue good war powers hygiene, repealing old "zombie" AUMFs (as Rep. Peter Meijer (R-MI) has coined them) that are not relied on for any current U.S. operations but could be susceptible to abuse. These are Rep. Barbara Lee's (D-CA) 2002 AUMF repeal amendment (with bipartisan co-sponsors), Rep. Abigail Spanberger's (D-VA) repeal of the 1991 AUMF, and Rep. Meijer's repeal of the 1957 AUMF. Another bipartisan amendment, co-sponsored by Reps. Lee and Meijer, takes the small but important step of declaring the "sense of Congress" that any new AUMF should include a date on which the authorization is terminated unless reauthorized by Congress, a.k.a. a sunset.

While settling on the details of any new AUMF will be challenging, the bipartisan sunset amendment should be another easy yes vote for members, and the Biden administration should support it. The full text of the sense of Congress provisions are as follows:

(1) the inclusion of a sunset provision or reauthorization requirement in authorizations for use of military force is critical to ensuring Congress's exercise of its constitutional duty to declare war; and

(2) any joint resolution enacted to authorize the introduction of United States forces into hostilities or into situations where there is a serious risk of hostilities should include a sunset provision setting forth a date certain for the termination of the authorization for the use of such forces absent the enactment of a subsequent specific statutory authorization for such use of the United States forces.

Making good on this sense of Congress in any future AUMF would go a long way toward fixing a pernicious problem that has developed over the past few decades, as old AUMFs have been construed to authorize wars against enemies that did not exist at the time of their enactment and about which Congress never deliberated. A sunset clause guards against that kind of misuse and abuse. It should not be understood as an "off switch," but rather as a vote forcing mechanism. By shifting the default away from forever authorizations, it ensures that the peoples' representatives affirmatively debate and decide whether the United States should be at war, and against whom, as the Constitution intended. And it ensures that our troops doing the fighting are foregrounded in these deliberations.

WHO SUPPORTS SUNSETS?

First and foremost, Congress itself has supported sunsets by enacting them into law in roughly one-third of past AUMFs and dec-

larations of war. Recent serious proposals for new AUMFs have also included sunsets, including those supported, and authored, by the executive branch: the ISIL-specific draft AUMF President Obama sent to Congress in 2015 included a three-year sunset clause.

Second, former senior officials serving in administrations of both political parties support sunsets. In May 2017, former CIA and Department of Defense General Counsel Stephen Preston advocated that a sunset clause shows the United States is "committed to the fight" and "committed to our democratic institutions." On this score, Heather Brandon-Smith's overview of exchanges on the value of a sunset provision in a July 2017 House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing titled "Authorization for the Use of Force and Current Terrorist Threats" is worth quoting in full:

The witnesses were repeatedly asked whether a sunset provision should be included in a new AUMF, with many members of Congress—on both sides of the aisle—agreeing on the merits of including a sunset. Both [former Attorney General Michael] Mukasey and [former National Counterterrorism Center Director Matthew] Olsen advocated in favor of sunsets . . . "As experts across the political spectrum have explained," said Olsen, "a sunset does not end the war. Rather, a sunset signals to our partners and adversaries that the U.S. is committed to using the force required to combat the current threats we face, even as we sustain the fight for as long as it takes."

Mukasey, who noted in his written statement that he does not generally favor sunsets in the intelligence gathering or counterterrorism authorities, advocated for a sunset in a new AUMF. "I favor a sunset provision," he said. "I've favored reconsidering the [2001] AUMF for years."

More recently, in March 2021, former Republican and Democratic administration senior lawyers at a House Rules Committee hearing on war powers (in which I testified), agreed on the need to include sunset provisions in future AUMFs. (Ryan Goodman, Steve Pomper, Steve Vladeck and I also supported including a three-year sunset in our set of principles for any new AUMF in 2021).

Third, leading experts and former senior officials who have considered how new AUMFs should be structured have long endorsed inclusion of sunsets. A set of principles for a new AUMF from leading legal experts Rosa Brooks, Sarah Cleveland, Jen Daskal, Walter Dellinger, Ryan Goodman, Harold Hongju Koh, Marty Lederman, and Steve Vladeck published in Just Security in November 2014 endorsed a sunset. They explained that sunsets, along with other constraints in the proposal, avoid unnecessary wars and promote democratic accountability. Eight years later, these are even more imperative goals.

Another set of principles for a new AUMF from Ben Wittes, Bobby Chesney, Jack Goldsmith, and Matt Waxman at Lawfare, coincidentally released on the same day in Nov. 2014, explicitly endorsed a three-year sunset to "forc[e] Congress to make an affirmative decision as to whether, and how, it wants its blessing to continue." Indeed, inclusion of a sunset is seen as a key point of consensus among these leading proposals for any new AUMF.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

BUT WOULD A SUNSET HELP THE ENEMY OR  
HAMSTRING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH?

At a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing last March, an administration witness surprisingly did not support the inclusion of sunsets in AUMFs because “we do not want to say to our adversaries at some date if they just hold out they can do whatever they please.” The Biden administration should shift that position—and embrace Reps. Lee and Meijer’s amendment—for at least three reasons.

First, there’s simply no reason to believe a congressional reauthorization requirement, or sunset, would send such a signal to an adversary. It is doubtful that adversaries in foreign countries—often primarily engaged against non-U.S. enemies—are at all concerned with U.S. domestic law authorizations. But even if we were to try to glean external signals from a domestic reauthorization requirement, as former State Department Legal Adviser Harold Hongju Koh said in 2015, “a sunset is not a repeal; it need not even be read as a proposal to repeal in the future. . . . A sunset is simply a shared congressional-executive agreement to reassess the situation together as a nation.”

If anything, a reauthorization requirement shows that Congress is paying attention to the war it has authorized and will continue to do so. And notwithstanding legitimate concerns of partisan Capitol Hill gridlock, Congress manages to pass NDAA’s, budgets, and other high-stakes legislation when needed.

Second, U.S. political leaders and the national security institutions that support them make decisions about the scale of U.S. involvement within and outside of conflict zones based on a range of factors, including the severity and immediacy of the threat, resource constraints, and the willingness and reliability of partners on the ground to act. A brief look at the past three presidential administrations underscores this point: it was not the expiration of an AUMF that caused President Biden to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan, Trump to announce withdrawal from Syria (before reversing course), or Obama to withdraw from President George W. Bush’s war in Iraq.

It bears emphasizing here that in any true emergency situation, under threat of an imminent armed attack or in a situation where U.S. nationals are in imminent peril abroad, the president may rely on independent authority in Art. II of the Constitution to act quickly (as most presidents in our recent history have done), regardless of the existence of any congressional authorization.

Third, and arguably far more important than any potential signal that might be sent to a foreign adversary, a reauthorization requirement sends a very real and important signal to our own troops: Congress supports the war effort you are engaged in and has taken a tough vote to authorize it. And if you are brave enough to fight, we are brave enough to vote.

A reauthorization requirement also signals—both internally and externally—a commitment to our own democratic processes. That commitment is now more important than ever for members of Congress and the executive branch to embrace.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to several provisions included in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Reauthorization, although ultimately, I will vote in favor for final passage of the bill.

First, I oppose Amendment 640, considered on the floor as part of en bloc Amendment 5, which directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reclassify public safety telecommunications officers, also called 911 dispatchers, as a protective service occupation in the U.S. Government’s Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. This Amendment would have no direct effect on these workers’ wages, benefits, or other resources; proponents of this reclassification have stated that it “would provide validation.”

The SOC classification system is a federal statistical standard used across agencies in data collection. According to OMB, “[t]he SOC is designed exclusively for statistical purposes.” Changes to the codes affect multiple data sources frequently used by policymakers, researchers, and employers, including the American Community Survey, the nation’s largest household survey; the Current Population Survey (CPS), the key source of our monthly employment numbers; and the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), the authoritative source of employment and wage information by occupation. These changes would undermine the intent and legitimacy of the SOC by deviating from the long-established process designed to ensure the objectivity and integrity statistical data classifications more broadly.

A standing committee at OMB, the SOC Policy Committee (SOCPC), is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of these codes using well-defined principles. The SOCPC undertakes a routine revision of the codes roughly once per decade; the process spans multiple years and “involves extensive background research, periods or public comment, review of comments, and implementation of revisions.” During its latest revision, which began in early 2012 and was finalized in 2018, OMB specifically rejected comments requesting it reclassify 911 dispatchers as directed in Amendment 640. In response to public comments presented in the May 2014 Federal Register, the Obama Administration’s OMB explained it “did not accept these recommendations based on Classification Principle 2, which states that workers are coded according to the work performed. The work performed is that of a dispatcher, not a first responder.”

In 2016, OMB declined a similar request for reclassification. Based on the principles OMB’s policy committee applies to determine SOC codes, 911 telephone dispatchers are already properly and accurately classified. This point was reiterated in communications with the Education and Labor Committee in 2021, explaining, “After an extensive technical review of the requested reclassification for 911 dispatchers, OMB, consistent with the recommendation of the Chief Statistician of the

United States, decided not to make such an adjustment because it is inconsistent with the statistical purposes of the SOC.”

Furthermore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in a written communication with the Education and Labor Committee on September 15, 2021, reported that the change made by H.R. 1175, a bill identical to Amendment 640, “will introduce costly, unnecessary logistical and data interpretation delays and challenges affecting the quality of data.” Moreover, changes outside of the routine revision process would undermine the goal of data continuity, limiting data sources’ usefulness for their key purpose of statistical analysis; create precedent for disrupting the standard SOC revision process; and undermine the SOCPC’s authority as experts to apply the classification principles to determine what accuracy requires.

Public safety telecommunications officers perform critical, challenging work. They deserve our honor and gratitude for their efforts. However, considering the many alternative ways policymakers could confer “validation,” as the proponents are seeking, there is little policy justification for this Amendment’s approach to achieving that goal. Furthermore, the SOC is not intended to rank or group occupations by education, credentials, earnings, benefits, or any other user-defined indicator of status.

In conclusion, mandating a change to a statistical code would not affect these workers’ wages, benefits, or other resources—but it would disrupt data series continuity; require significant additional work for government agencies, researchers, employers, and others; and intervene in an official, routine government data-collection and statistical process.

Second, I oppose language in the bill, added by Amendment 113 considered on the floor as part of the en bloc Amendment 2, which would expand the Troops-to-Teachers program from recruiting veterans to become teachers, to recruiting veterans to fill a longer list of school-based positions including school resource officers (SROs). Increasing the presence of SROs can have a particularly harmful effect on students of color and students with disabilities. Nationally, Black and Latinx youth make up over 58 percent of school-based arrests while representing only 40 percent of public school enrollment, and Black students are more than twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement or arrested at school as their white peers. According to a 2018 study by GAO, Black students, boys, and students with disabilities are also disproportionately disciplined in K–12 public schools.

Moreover, the amendment removes crucial language from the definition of “eligible school” which would target resources to high-poverty schools. This is concerning with regard to the recruitment of key positions such as teachers, school leaders, and counselors to meet the needs of students in high-poverty schools, particularly as high-poverty schools have been disproportionately impacted by recent staffing shortages.

Finally, I oppose section 572 of the bill, added to NDAA during the full committee markup of the bill on June 23. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) plays a critical role in educating the children of our nation’s military families. Across the globe, DoDEA coordinates the education of more than 60,000 children. Importantly, the DoDEA

also stands apart from other public-school districts as one of only two federally operated K-12 school systems.

As a result, while it is within the federal government's purview to implement the proposed requirements for DoDEA schools under this legislation, these proposed requirements would be inappropriate to impose on traditional public school districts. This is a unique exception in our education system. Moving forward, Congress must continue to ensure that state and local governments can meet the unique needs of their students and parents without mandating requirements regarding the rights of parents.

While I support the overall passage of NDAA, I remain opposed to these three provisions.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF JIM TATE HILL

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Tate Hill, who dedicated his career to music, academics, and serving.

Jim Tate Hill started his career in 1970 when he decided to give his life to Christ. He began his training at St. Paul Church of God in Christ (COGIC) in Bakersfield, California and continued his education. He attended college and received his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Pacific's Conservatory of Music. Jim's passion in music influenced his service to the community and through the church.

He served as the choir director at Glad Tidings COGIC and in 1981, Jim soon grew in different roles. He was the Lead Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, Minister of Music, and Assistant Pastor at Bethel Temple COGIC. Under Jim's leadership as pastor of Bethel Temple, there were many issues that Jim felt needed to be addressed, such as youth and early education, homelessness, and community revitalization. With his California-license in general contracting, Jim has assisted in building and remodeling over 20 churches between Madera and Bakersfield.

In 2006, Jim was entrusted to be in the leading role as Superintendent of the Central Valley District. That same year, he was recognized by his contributions to education as one of the inaugural recipients of the African-American Heritage Award. During those 41 years, he worked under three District Superintendents as the Minister of Music, Sunday School Superintendent, and as the Assistant District Superintendent. In 2019, Bethel Temple opened Early Readers Preschool, a full preschool and daycare center, the only one of its kind located at a church in southwest Fresno.

Jim's character and work ethic elevated him to various roles throughout his life. He was recognized for his hard work and for creating impacts in the community. He was one of four inaugural recipients to receive the Excellence of Service medal by Bishop Samuel Doyle at the 43rd Annual Jurisdictional Holy Convocation in 2013. In 2020, Jim was elevated by Bishop Doyle to 2nd Admin. Assistant of the California Valley Jurisdiction and Chair of the Southern Region.

Jim has a B.A. in Music Education from the University of Pacific's Conservatory of Music. He has introduced both kindergarteners and high school students, to music ranging from classical to gospel for nearly 40 years in southwest Fresno. His high school and middle school choirs and bands have performed in California Music Educators Association festivals and competitions.

Jim has been happily married to Missionary Carla Hill for 45 years. Together, they have three children: Tate II, Paul, and Candice, and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Jim Tate Hill and may we continue to be inspired by his many contributions in the community.

#### CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN RICHARD RAMSAY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE COLONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Richard Ramsay who is retiring from the Colona Fire Department after 20 years of service.

Captain Ramsay joined the Colona Fire Department two decades ago with a passion for keeping his neighbors safe. He served many roles throughout his tenure with the department, including Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Hazardous Material Technician, Safety Officer, and Special Teams Leader. His experience and reliability helped the department soar to new heights. He was a consummate professional with impeccable character, unafraid to tackle danger head on, no matter the circumstance. Captain Ramsay's impact on the Colona Fire Department and the surrounding Quad Cities region is unquestionable. I wish him and his family well as he transitions into this next chapter of life.

It is because of valiant and selfless leaders such as Captain Richard Ramsay that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate Colona Fire Department Captain Richard Ramsay on his retirement and thank him for his 20 years of service to the Colona community.

#### RECOGNIZING ALL AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICALS IN MONTANA

#### HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, Sr.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great American ingenuity coming out of Montana this month. All American Pharmaceuticals in Billings, Montana, have developed a new baby formula to provide relief from the shortage ravaging our nation.

Unfortunately, Biden's FDA gatekeepers are requiring them to jump through endless bureaucratic hoops to get mouths fed. The FDA licensed their company to manufacture—but not to sell.

If the Biden administration doesn't find long-term relief for our Nation's economic and supply chain issues, we are going to see more suffering Americans and more essential goods sitting in factories.

These Montanans are salt-of-the-earth, shirt-off-your-back people serving their neighbors. I commend All American Pharmaceuticals for their hard work, as well as all the nonprofits and charities in Montana supporting families and babies in crisis.

We need more innovators in Montana, and fewer gatekeepers in Washington.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH T. LETTELLEIR III

#### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of St. Petersburg legend, Joe Lettelreir, who was a giant in Pinellas County and left his indelible mark on everything he did whether a military veteran, business entrepreneur, respected banker, or prominent developer.

Joe moved to St. Petersburg in 1948 and attended Northeast High School where he met the love of his life, Becky. He attended Indiana University for college and served in the U.S. Army after graduation.

A man of many careers, he served as Senior Executive Vice President of Florida Federal Savings and Loan, Founder of Bay Development and Bayside Savings and Loan, and owner/operator of Paradise Lakes Resort. Most recently, Joe served as President and CEO of Contemporary Housing Alternatives of Florida (CHAF), a non-profit focused on providing affordable housing solutions in the region.

Joe was a well-known leader in St. Pete and proudly led countless boards and committees, including the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Shorecrest Preparatory School Board of Trustees, AMIKids, Quarterback Club, St. Pete Dragons, the St. Petersburg Housing Authority, and Concerned Citizens (STOP the Lens).

Through his advocacy efforts, especially on banking and housing issues, Joe befriended countless elected officials and public servants including my dear friend, the late Congressman C.W. Bill Young and Freddy St. Germain.

While the body of his professional and charitable work was a source of pride, Joe's most meaningful work is the beautiful family he created with his wonderful wife of 56 years, Becky. Joe and Becky have three loving children, Mark, Amy and Matt; and precious grandchildren, Ryan, Riley and Reece Lettelreir, and Megan and Jake Freedman to whom he was known as "Pa." He was a fixture at nearly every football, basketball, and baseball game, dance recital, cheerleading competition, and any opportunity to show his love and support for his children and grandchildren. He was also respected and cherished as a father figure to many of his children's friends, who always sought out his wisdom and guidance.

Joe, with Becky by his side, travelled the world, including all 50 states. Most visited during long road trips on America's backroads that he loved so much.

A huge sports fan, he was a die-hard Hoosier and an original season ticket holder for the Bucs and Rays. He was also a student of history and his insatiable curiosity inspired him to constantly seek knowledge.

As a great patriot of this Nation, he fittingly departed from this world on July 4th at the age of 77. He will be remembered as a man of principle and faith, the life of the party, ready with a joke or story for any occasion, and as a fiercely loyal friend who was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Joe Lettelleir had a life you can hang your hat on. May his memory be everlasting.

#### BEAUFORT WATER FESTIVAL

### HON. NANCY MACE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 66th Annual Beaufort Water Festival. Since 1956, the Beaufort community has celebrated the community's waterways alongside family and friends, making memories at this time-honored tradition.

Each year, local and national businesses, civic organizations, the military, and hundreds of volunteers give their time and money to support the Festival. Each year, the leader of these volunteers is announced as the following Festival's Commodore.

This year's commodore, Shawna Doran, has given over two decades of service to the Festival and to the community at large. When she isn't leading the Water Festival's army of volunteers, Shawna serves the Beaufort community as a registered nurse and Vice President at Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

I commend Shawna, and all of the Festival's hundreds of volunteers, for their dedication to the festival's motto of "Fun, Sun, and Vitamin Sea."

Lastly, I want to wish one of my dedicated district interns, Mason Dalen, good luck as he participates in the Badminton Tournament, one of the Beaufort Water Festival's many great traditions.

#### CONGRATULATING SHERIFF BRIAN ASBELL ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PEORIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peoria County Sheriff Brian Asbell, who is retiring from the Peoria County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) after 27 years of dignified service.

Sheriff Asbell has devoted his entire life to protecting and serving his neighbors and defending our great nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic. His first experience in public service was in the U.S. Army as a Combat Engineer in the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, a post he held from 1990 through 1993.

He transitioned to the Army National Guard (ANG) as a Combat Engineer, where he remained until 1996. In the last year of his service to ANG, he joined PCSO as a Correctional Officer. Though he now had two obligations to his immediate community, his commitment and dedication to PCSO flourished and in January 1997, Sheriff Asbell was promoted to Correctional Sergeant. His unrelenting work ethic continued as he was elevated to Patrol Deputy in December 2000, then Detective in January 2005. In this capacity, he strived to reduce crime and solve some of the most difficult cases in every corner of the county. After four years in this capacity, he accepted a new role as Undersheriff and Jail Superintendent, in which he excelled for seven years. He was appointed the 56th Peoria County Sheriff in August 2017 and was elected in November 2018. Not only did Sheriff Asbell carry on the honorable legacy of his predecessors, he helped to modernize PCSO and reshape its relationship with residents.

It is because of exceptional and valorous leaders such as Sheriff Brian Asbell that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again, formally congratulate Peoria County Sheriff Brian Johnson on his retirement and thank him for his 27 years of service to our community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GILBERT FRANK COELHO

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gilbert Coelho, long-time resident of Firebaugh, who passed away at age 80 on April 15, 2022. He was a strong man of faith and an excellent example of a man of great character.

Gilbert was born in San Leandro, California. He was one of four children born to Otto and Alice Coelho, and they were raised on the family dairy farm in Dos Palos. Gilbert was involved in 4H and FFA where he raised and showed animals with his brothers. He worked on the family farm until the 1960's and at Eagle Field and then on to custom farming with his father in the Hilmar area.

Eventually, Gilbert worked with Western Farm Service, TRI Farms, and Del Monte Fresh Produce. He became a melon growing and harvesting specialist, and a well-respected Pest Control Advisor. Gilbert retired in 2009 and continued with agricultural consulting part-time.

In the Dos Palos/Firebaugh area, Gilbert met Carol Cunha, the love of his life, and they married in November of 1973. Two years later, they made their home in Firebaugh, where they raised their children and attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Gilbert was an active member and served on the church finance council and the bereavement committee.

Gilbert gave back to his community and served on the City of Firebaugh/School District Community Recreation Commission and acted as President of the local Lions Club. He was

also a member of the Firebaugh Service Club, Knights of Columbus and Firebaugh Rotary Club. He volunteered for countless local community activities and was always ready to assist. Another passion he displayed for over 37 years was his role as School Board Member and President of the Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District Board. He was also a delegate to the California School Boards Association and an Executive Board Member for the Fresno County Trustees association.

Gilbert helped to establish the Westside Institute of Technology which provided invaluable job training to local youth. He developed the Firebaugh High School Ag Department Almond Orchard, farming it with the staff and youth of the community. He could always be seen working the Orchard and serving his community.

Gilbert is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Carol; three children, five grandchildren, three siblings, five in-laws, and many nieces and nephews.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Gilbert Frank Coelho. May he be remembered as an inspiration for all who knew him.

#### HONORING THE LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS OF AGENT JOHN LESLIE

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Leslie of Clinton Township, Michigan. His heroic efforts are worthy of commendation.

On the night of Saturday, July 31, 2021, John Leslie was driving on Northwestern Highway when he noticed a vehicle fire on the side of the road. The off-duty border patrol officer and trained Emergency Medical Technician rushed to investigate the scene. Two men who were already at the scene told him that there was a man trapped in the burning vehicle. He saw a person in need and did not hesitate to risk his life to save another.

With the front of the vehicle destroyed by the crash, the driver remained trapped in the vehicle at a scene that was becoming more dangerous by the minute. Endangering himself, he climbed into the back of the vehicle to see if he could help remove the driver. The damage prevented him from pulling him out the back or the front. With the clock ticking, he noticed a bowling ball in the backseat. After several strikes, he broke through the driver's side door and was able to open the door and remove the driver. Moments later, the vehicle was engulfed in flames. Agent Leslie had acted just in time to save the life of the driver. Using his training as an Emergency Medical Technician, he attended to the driver until the authorities arrived on the scene. If it was not for Agent Leslie's heroic actions, the driver would not be alive today.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Agent John Leslie for his efforts that saved a life. We are grateful for Agent Leslie's service to our country as a Border Patrol Agent protecting us from harm. I am proud to commemorate his heroic efforts here today.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEE FOR  
EXCELLENCE**HON. PETE STAUBER**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abe Schwartz, a math teacher at Bemidji Middle School, who has been honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Our children are our future, and teachers like Abe are absolutely critical in developing young leaders with a passion to learn and grow.

This is the nation's highest honor for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and I am incredibly proud knowing that we have such a talented and enthusiastic educator in our great Eighth District preparing our next generations for ingenuity and greatness.

Congratulations again to Abe on this amazing accomplishment, and I thank him for his steadfast dedication to the students at Bemidji Middle School. I wish him nothing but success as he continues to mentor and lead his students to a bright future.

CONGRATULATING DEPUTY CHIEF  
BRIAN JOHNSON ON HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE MOLINE POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Chief Brian Johnson, who is retiring from the Moline Police Department after 22 years of service.

Deputy Chief Johnson's career in law enforcement began in January 2000 when he joined the nearby Silvis Police Department, where he stayed for two years. His father, a former Sergeant in the East Moline Police Department, helped steer him toward a career in public safety. He became an officer in the Moline Police Department in February 2002. Always looking to rise above the call of duty in protecting and serving his neighbors, Deputy Chief Johnson worked his way through the ranks. He served as Patrol Officer, Street Crimes Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Juvenile Investigations Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Accreditation and Standards Lieutenant and Operations Captain, before being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2021. He is a graduate of Kewanee High School in Kewanee, Illinois, Western Illinois University, and Northwestern Illinois University's School of Police Staff and Command. Deputy Chief Johnson's contributions to the Quad Cities community will never be forgotten.

It is because of noble and fearless leaders such as Deputy Chief Brian Johnson that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again, formally congratulate Moline Police Department Deputy Chief Brian Johnson on his retirement and thank him for his 22 years of service to our community.

HONORING CITIZENS GUARANTY  
BANK**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Citizens Guaranty Bank on its 50th anniversary.

The bank was chartered in 1971 and Kentucky Governor Louie Nunn signed the charter. The bank opened in 1972 in Irvine, Kentucky. Over the years the bank has expended its reach and opened offices in Richmond, London, and Stanton. It serves many customers living in the 6th Congressional District. The bank is locally owned and operated, with over 75 team members and seven locations. The mission of the bank is "To help our customers enhance their lives and achieve their dreams while actively supporting our communities where we live and work". Kathy Samples, who started with the bank in 1977, serves as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the bank.

It is my honor to recognize the dedicated leaders and team members of Citizens Guaranty Bank. I congratulate them on their 50-year history, celebrate their many accomplishments, and look forward to a bright future of serving their customers.

RECOGNIZING THE SUFFERING OF  
THE SINDHI COMMUNITY IN  
PAKISTAN**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Sindhi Sufi people in Pakistan, and against the unconscionable human rights atrocities that have been inflicted upon them for years.

There is perhaps nowhere in the world more important for the United States to battle extremism with public diplomacy than Pakistan, a nuclear-armed state where numerous extremists over the years have unfortunately sought refuge from justice. Pakistan's third largest province of Sindh is a place of particular concern, where members of the local Sindhi community find themselves subject to intense and unfair government scrutiny.

Sindhi persons have also been notably absent from the high echelons of Pakistan's government. As of 2022, there has not been a single Sindhi speaking judge on the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Of deepest concern however are the many instances of human rights abuses against the community, including exceptional jail times for trumped up crimes of "blasphemy", beatings, harassment, and forced disappearances. In 2017 alone, many activists, budding politicians, teachers, and students were forcibly disappeared by authorities. The Center for Research and Security Studies based in Pakistan has reported nearly 1,500 accusations and cases of blasphemy. Out of these 18 women and 71 men have been killed extrajudicially between 1947 and 2021.

I was made aware of one such case by my constituents: the life sentence handed down to

one man, Notan Lal, the principal of a private school and member of Pakistan's Hindu minority who was accused of speaking blasphemously about the Prophet Muhammad. For this supposed infraction against the common good, he was arrested in 2019 and ultimately sentenced in February 2022 to 25 years in prison. No one should ever have to face a life in prison on such trumped-up charges.

There is a silver lining however, as Congress continues to hear the cries for help from the Sindhi community, we are answering with greater efforts to recognize and promote their importance. Sindh Caucus Co-Chair Representative Brad Sherman and I were especially grateful to see that our Caucus' efforts to see Voice of America promote additional material and resources in the Sindhi language. Nearly 14 percent of Pakistanis—over 30 million people—speak Sindhi, but there has unfortunately never been significant material in the language from VOA until now. With this new material, it will become easier to reach out to the Sindhi community in Pakistan, and for them to reach out into the world in turn.

The people of Pakistan—especially those in the Sindhi community—deserve respect for their human rights, regardless of creed or conviction. I urge my colleagues to continue to speak out for the Sindhi community in Pakistan and ensure that their human rights are respected.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
DARRELL FONSECA**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Darrell Fonseca who is retiring after 32 years as the City Manager of Dos Palos, California. Darrell Fonseca is currently the State of California's longest serving City Manager in a single city.

Born and raised in Dos Palos, Darrell Fonseca graduated from Dos Palos High School and attended Fresno State. After obtaining a minor in Philosophy and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Darrell Fonseca went on to University of California Berkeley, and received a Management of Water certificate, and graduated from Cal's Goldman School of Public Policy in Strategic Management of Public Organizations.

Darrell was a part of successful political campaigns, including the "Great Speakership War". One of his employees was a college student who later became President Barack Obama. He served as a floor manager at the National Convention for Gary Hart and was a key player in Hart's California primary campaign for president. At 28 years old, he was elected as a Delegate from the 15th Congressional District. Darrell knows how to work in many governmental positions. He was an intern for State Senator George Zenovich, a Legislative Assistant to then Assemblyman and future Congressman Jim Costa, an Associate Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, Chief Consultant to the Select Committee on Energy & Agriculture, Assistant to the Majority Whip, and Administrator to Congressman Richard Lehman. Fonseca also worked for the Fresno

County Board of Supervisors, was interim Executive Director of the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce.

After the passing of his first wife at the age of 24 due to cancer, Fonseca moved back to Dos Palos to care for his parents. During that time, he served on the Economic Development Commission, and met the future Mayor, Ron Skinner, who encouraged him to apply for city manager and a new chapter in his life began. This decision led him as the city's 7th City Manager, its 14th CEO, 14th Police Commissioner, and the 15th City Clerk. As City Manager, Darrell worked with 10 mayors and 32 councilmembers.

He attributes his success to having a hard working and knowledgeable staff and by listening to their advice. Darrell has helped with the emergency services for nearby schools, Measure V, transportation improvements, paying off debts, helped in building a new water plant, and more. During his free time, Darrell spends time with his wife Maria. Together, they have three children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson, and hosted a foreign exchange student from Ukraine.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Darrell Fonseca in his retirement after 32 years as the City Manager of Dos Palos, California and among California's 482 cities, currently holds the title as the State of California's longest serving city manager in a single city.

#### RECOGNIZING BILL TRUEIT FOR 33 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Bill Trueit for 33 years of invaluable service to students and families in Washington's 1st Congressional District. I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to Mr. Trueit on his retirement from Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek, WA where he taught U.S. Government and Civics. I had the privilege of visiting his classroom every year possible and can speak directly to Mr. Trueit's passion for educating Washington's students. Under his tenure, countless students have been encouraged to pursue their dreams, learn new skills, and serve our communities. Bill's presence in our schools will be deeply missed, but his impact for Washington's students will not be soon forgotten. It is truly bittersweet to see him go.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Trueit and wishing him the best in his retirement.

#### CONGRATULATING LESLIE HAYNES ON HER RETIREMENT AS A DISPATCHER FOR GALESBURG/KNOX COUNTY 9-1-1

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leslie Haynes on her retire-

ment from her position as Dispatcher for Galesburg/Knox County 9-1-1.

Leslie is from the Galesburg area and began her career as a 9-1-1 dispatcher at Galesburg/Knox County 9-1-1 on October 9, 2000. During the first half of her career, she worked second shift, and later transitioned to first shift. Leslie is described as a wonderful and caring coworker. Her colleagues also described her as dedicated and hardworking. When life throws her difficult circumstances, Leslie maintains a positive attitude and continues to serve her community, which shows a great amount of strength. She leads by example, and she served the citizens of Knox County with compassion and unwavering dedication. Leslie is also a mother of two and grandmother of five.

It is because of community leaders like Leslie Haynes that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Leslie Haynes on her retirement from the Galesburg/Knox County 9-1-1 as a Dispatcher.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendment, Lee number three eight three, to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Force against Iraq.

I want to thank my cosponsors, including Chairman MEEKS of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Chairmen SMITH and MCGOVERN for their support to permit me to offer this amendment.

This amendment is simple: it would terminate the outdated but still dangerous 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

I say "outdated" because the 2002 AUMF no longer serves any operational purpose. U.S. military deployments and operations carried out under the 2002 AUMF—dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom—officially concluded in 2011.

I say "dangerous" because the 2002 contained no sunset provision. Leaving this outdated and unnecessary authorization on the books allows Presidents to utilize it for military action Congress never intended to authorize.

This House has already voted three times to repeal this AUMF—most recently in June of last year, when the House adopted this same language by a vote of 268 to 161.

And last year, the President formally endorsed repeal of the 2002 AUMF, issuing a Statement of Administration Policy in favor of repeal, stating that the 2002 AUMF serves no purpose.

We cannot afford to leave outdated AUMFs on the books indefinitely. It is past time for Congress to finally do our Constitutional duty and vote on matters of war and peace.

Madam Speaker, nothing telegraphs America's indecision more than our failure to end wars that are long over. I urge all Members to support my amendment, repeal the 2002 AUMF, and assert our Article One responsibility to define when and how our country goes to war.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of En Bloc No. 4, which contains a number of provisions that the Committee on Homeland Security has advanced in a bipartisan manner.

I am pleased that it includes Amendment No. 390 that contains the text of H.R. 903, the Rights for the TSA Workforce Act of 2022, as passed by the House in May.

Under TSA's current personnel system, the agency regularly ranks at, or near, the bottom of the annual Federal employee satisfaction surveys and suffers from high attrition.

The most recent Inspector General analysis of employee turnover revealed that in a single year, TSA spent roughly \$16 million on hiring and training nearly 2,000 people who left just months after they got the job.

Such costly and disruptive turnover risks hampering security operations and must be addressed meaningfully.

My amendment seeks to attract and retain a mature and stable workforce within TSA by placing the agency under the Federal personnel system set forth in title 5 of the U.S. Code.

Getting the TSA workforce under the personnel system under which most other Federal employees operate has been a priority for many of us for decades. The unprecedented support by the Biden administration has significantly improved prospects for getting this done. And this amendment's inclusion in the NDAA provides an opportunity to engage with our Senate partners in a timely way.

Additionally, I am pleased that En Bloc No. 4 includes Amendment No. 420 that I filed with Rep. JOHN KATKO of New York, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security. It contains the text of 25 bipartisan homeland security measures that the House had previously approved.

These measures would strengthen community security, improve Department of Homeland Security acquisitions and supply chains, and enhance DHS operations. The bipartisan amendment includes provisions to increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program from \$75 million to \$500 million for each fiscal year through 2028, reform the way DHS procures uniforms issued to Department front-line personnel by encouraging the procurement of domestically sourced items by U.S. small businesses, reauthorize the U.S. Secret Service's National Computer Forensics Institute, authorize a one-stop screening process for certain arriving international travelers, and authorize grants to carry out the Cybersecurity Education and Training Assistance Program, or CETAP—a program to strengthen K-12 cybersecurity education.

I am also pleased that the en bloc includes a measure (Amendment No. 526) authored by Rep. AL GREEN of Texas to bolster the authorities and operations of the Department's Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Office.

Finally, I am delighted to have the support of Rep. PETER DEFazio of Oregon, the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure



Committee, on Amendment No. 441, which is also included in the en bloc package and seeks to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its efforts to instill equity as a foundation of emergency management. Studies have found that low-income communities, rural areas, racial minorities, tribes, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and children are all more likely to experience the most devastating impacts of disasters. Yet, many in these communities and groups face an uphill battle to navigate the complicated Federal assistance processes. With hurricane season underway and wildfires wreaking havoc on communities big and small, passage of my amendment is very timely.

I thank Committee on Armed Services Chairman ADAM SMITH of Washington and his staff for their partnership with me and my staff throughout this entire process. Looking ahead, I am eager to work with the Senate to get these important provisions in the final NDAA package and on the President's desk.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDWARD STACK

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man, a living legend, and a champion of civil rights. Although Edward Stack is not being inducted today, and it has been said by his high school coach that he couldn't "catch a baseball with a bushel basket", this man is the heart and soul of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Born in Sea Cliff, and a longtime resident of Glen Head, New York, Ed served as Chairman of the Board from 1977 to 2000, and as an officer from 1961 to 1977. Due to his tireless efforts, the Hall of Fame saw tremendous growth and multi-million-dollar expansions. Even more significant, were the historical milestones which took place under Ed's leadership. The most notable being the inclusion of former Negro League players, who had been excluded from Major League baseball prior to Jackie Robinson.

The inclusion of the Negro League superstars was a moment of lasting pride, according to Ed. It was a victory for civil rights and the correction of an injustice which, Ed says, took way too long to be corrected. With Ed's efforts, players such as Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Judy Johnson, Cool Papa Bell, Buck Leonard, and Martin Dihigo, those whose groundbreaking accomplishments had been overlooked simply due their color, were finally given the recognition they deserved.

In order to protect the integrity of baseball, Ed fought to prohibit players who broke the rules, specifically those who used performance enhancing drugs. Ed is well known to many acclaimed baseball celebrities who adore him. Babe Ruth's widow, Claire, considered him a close friend. Yogi Berra and his wife affectionately called Ed "blue eyes." Ed has also visited numerous presidents in the Oval Office and had a special bond with Ronald Reagan.

As impressive as Ed's professional accomplishments is his generosity. In his retirement, Ed serves as an officer or director for 19 different charitable and cultural organizations, in-

cluding the Bassett Medical Center, the Farmers' Museum, the New York State Trooper Foundation, the Salvation Army, and the Mental Health Association of Nassau County.

He is a frequent donor to his alma mater, Pace University, where he once served as student council president. Ed invests in education because he hopes to give others the same opportunity for success that he had. In 1991, Pace recognized his outstanding contribution by awarding him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. In tribute to Ed's constant support, the University named the Edward W. Stack "56 Suite" at Alumni Hall, in his honor.

Today, Ed and his wife, Christina, have used their financial success to support those in need. They are significant donors to multiple philanthropic causes. The SCO Family of Services describe the couple's compassion by saying, "Ed Stack and his wife Chris are in a league of their own when it comes to helping others."

Ed and his wife raised three beautiful daughters named Amy, Kim, and Suzanne. Ed is also a beloved "Opa," or grandfather, to Kara, Lucy, and McGill. Ed's daughters describe their father as hardworking and resilient. As a child, Ed had overcome Polio. He was told he would never walk again, but Ed persevered and proved the doctors wrong. Although walking was difficult, Ed would commute an hour and a half to work every day. Ed's daughter Amy describes Ed's dedication as such that sometimes he'd fall down the train stairs because his legs would give out, but she never remembers him ever complaining about his commute. Amy says that it always amazes her that her father could drink a cup of black coffee at 11pm before going to bed, have no problem sleeping, and then wake up at 5am to catch the train.

Ed's whole life was about helping others. During the rare moments when Ed was not in meetings, he would spend his time walking his dogs at Tappen Beach, baking gluten free bread for Kim, and helping his children with their homework. Ed also loved to care for the elderly. On weekends Ed would take his family with him to different elderly friends' houses, and Ed's family would help them with their taxes or finances. Now, as a grandfather, Ed can be found doting on his grandchildren and giving them scooter rides around the hallways of the Harborside Community in Port Washington.

As the famous poet from our district, Walt Whitman, once said, "I see great things in baseball." Baseball is more than a game; it is a thread which has tied Americans of all backgrounds together since the beginning of our nation's history. During the Civil War, baseball was used to boost morale on the battlefield. During World War Two, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in his famous green light letter that, even in these trying times, "I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going." Today we proudly recognize and thank Ed for his trailblazing contributions to our national pastime, his contributions to social justice, and his immense philanthropy.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JIM A. YOVINO

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Jim A. Yovino. This year will mark Jim's ninth year as Superintendent.

Jim was born and raised in Fresno and graduated from Fresno City College and Fresno State University with his BA and teaching credential. He later received his Master of Arts in Education from Fresno Pacific University clearly indicating his passion for education.

Over the next twenty years, Jim held positions in Fresno, Dinuba, Central, and Clovis Unified School districts ranging from coach, administrator, assistant superintendent, teacher, and principal. Jim was the Assistant Superintendent of the Human Resource Department overseeing 1,400 employees and the direct supervision of the secondary schools. In 2006 Jim became Deputy Superintendent of Schools, an office he served in until 2013 when he was elected Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. Jim focuses on advocacy for career technical education, and addressing poverty, intervention, homelessness, civility, and early education. Jim led the Servant Leadership program, a mentoring service for at-risk youth. He opened the Kids Café and the Lighthouse for Children Center in downtown Fresno, two institutions which provide skills training, special education, and child development services.

Jim is a member of the California Partnership Board for the San Joaquin Valley, Cradle to Career Board, Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame Board, Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, Fresno Rotary, Fresno Chamber of Commerce, Halo Café Pet Food Pantry, El Concilio, Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Fresno Kremen Noted Alumni, Fresno State Health and Human Services Dean's Council of Ambassadors, Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship, Maddy Institute, Fresno States President's Commission on Teacher Education, Central Valley Promise, Foundation for the Fresno County Office of Education, Fresno Area Compact, and California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.

For 25 years The Fresno Compact has recognized individuals and business partners for their support of local schools. The Fresno Compact awarded Jim Yovino their 2022 Harold Haak Award for Leadership and Establishing Partnerships. His work in the community and impacts he has made through education is evident. Jim manages over 1,500 employees and an organizational budget that serves around 205,500 Fresno County students across 32 school districts and over 345 schools.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his receipt of the 2022 Harold Haak Award. Jim A. Yovino's tremendous contributions to the culture, community, and education system of Fresno County deserve the highest praise and recognition as he continues to serve the Valley and its community.

## STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2022*

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Amendment No. 431 in en bloc No. 4, offered by my good friend from Rhode Island, Mr. CICILLINE. I am proud to cosponsor this amendment and urge my colleagues to support it.

This amendment would safeguard important protections for servicemembers and their families by preventing the enforcement of forced arbitration clauses in any dispute covered under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). The SCRA was passed to ease financial burdens on servicemembers when they are required to relocate for active duty assignments and protects them from eviction, foreclosure, and other financial penalties. Unfortunately, forced arbitration clauses deny our troops the ability to exercise their SCRA rights and protections in court. This is not right. Our servicemembers deserve peace of mind while they are out fighting for our freedoms, which is why Rep. CICILLINE and I are offering this amendment.

It is worth noting this language was included in the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act that passed the House with bipartisan support, but unfortunately was stripped during negotiations with the Senate. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on amendment No. 431 so we can ensure our military men and women can focus on their missions rather than worry about financial burdens at home.

## COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated on July 8, 2022. The whole world mourns the loss of this great leader—the longest serving prime minister in the history of Japan. As the leader of his party, he won an unprecedented four elections spanning a time period of eleven years. His popularity was undeniable.

Prime Minister Abe always focused on the positive contributions made by the Japanese people. Instead of apologizing for the sins of his forebears, he promoted economic and foreign policies that put the people of Japan first. He was not afraid of China and taught the watching world that strength in the face of communist totalitarianism beats coddling and submission. This great patriot never tired in his commitment to fight for his people.

Prime Minister Abe taught the world about true leadership. Take care of your own people. Protect them. Value them.

I offer my condolences and deep sympathies to the people of Japan, and the friends and family of Mr. Abe. They gave the world a

shining star. And now he returns to the heavens.

## SUPPORT OF H.R. 7900, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act. My amendments seek to better understand the mental health challenges and mechanisms of support available to servicemembers; mandate strong reports which will be critical in enacting better policy for servicemembers in the future; and make defense communities more resilient to the growing threat of climate change.

The first amendment (Amendment No. 322), which my colleague, Congresswoman ELAINE LURIA, has cosponsored, represents an important step forward in better understanding and combatting the epidemic of suicide facing not just the Navy, but the entire armed forces. There is a dearth of information about suicide and suicide prevention in the Navy, particularly on Navy ships. This is why directing the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to compile and publish a report on instances of suicide, suicide prevention, and response within the Navy is so important. This report will be comprehensive and desperately needed, given how little we truly understand why some sailors choose to end their lives, as well as the failures of command and areas where available resources have failed to catch and prevent these tragedies.

Additionally, the report will contain a survey of the mental health teams found on Navy ships and installations, so that we might better understand the limitations faced by these critical teams to properly treat, prevent, and respond to instances of suicidal ideation, suicidal intent, and suicidal attempts of the crewmembers they serve. These mental health teams are critical components of every unit, but do not always have the staff or resources available to provide necessary treatment and counseling to the sailors under their care. This report will be critical in better understanding the shortfalls these teams face, which will allow us to set them up for better successes in the future.

The discussion of suicides in the Navy is a personal one. I have lost constituents in the Navy, particularly this year wherein the shocking number of sailors who died by suicide while serving on the USS *George Washington* in Newport News, Virginia made national headlines. It is my belief that this DoD report will be the first step in better understanding how to prevent another, similar tragedy and see where the Navy could be doing more to actively support its servicemembers during times of mental and emotional crisis.

My second amendment (Amendment No. 323) requires the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to survey and report on programs across the armed services which allow servicemembers to file anonymous complaints and concerns without fear of identification or reprisal from command.

The chain of command is something that every soldier and employee of the Department

of Defense is taught to respect from the earliest days of training. Soldiers know there are some issues they cannot voice without risking the ire of their commanding officers or drawing undue attention to themselves, even if the nature of their complaint is a valid quality of life concern, a note about morale, a safety issue, or any reasonable request for support from existing Department services and programs.

Programs which allow anonymous complaint filing for servicemembers fill a critical gap of inter-unit communication by encouraging soldiers to advocate for themselves through a channel which they know will protect their identity and be taken seriously and reviewed on its merits. However, there is currently no DoD-wide review of where such programs exist, making it difficult to gauge their level of user participation, analyze data on the sorts of complaints filed, or even know which units and branches support such programs. This is a gap in knowledge that merits a proper review by the Department of Defense, so that we may better understand what support our soldiers are asking for and where they are and aren't being given the opportunity to even ask.

My third amendment (Amendment No. 321) seeks to improve adaptation and emergency management coordination between state, local, and federal entities in defense communities, especially the Department of Defense. By creating interagency regional resilience coordinator positions in defense communities, this amendment will enhance military readiness and community resilience. I was pleased to have the support of my colleagues, Congresswoman LURIA, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and veteran of the Navy; Congressman WITTMAN, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee; Congressman MCEACHIN; and Congresswoman SANCHEZ on this important amendment.

As a Nation, our aging stormwater infrastructure, housing stock, emergency management systems, and power grid exacerbate the threats of climate change. Thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the United States is making our infrastructure more resilient and creating jobs in the process. These investments in our infrastructure will help protect our communities and prevent needless loss and human suffering.

The Department of Defense recognizes that, as the climate changes, "leveraging knowledge and actions when planning climate change adaptation and emergency preparedness and response requires expanded collaboration with surrounding communities." This is especially true in Hampton Roads, Virginia due to the significant federal footprint, including 15 military bases, and the region's geographic complexities.

In my district and throughout Hampton Roads, communities play an essential role in supporting critical defense installations. Community assets, infrastructure, and services ensure the region's bases are ready and provide the region's 83,000 active-duty service members and their families with amenities to live, get to work, and recreate. The threat of sea level rise and increasingly frequent and severe storms, however, jeopardize these community services and military readiness.

Fortunately, the region has developed strong cooperation and expertise in this regard. This acumen and spirit of collaboration are clear in the two recent Joint Land Use Studies and a 2016 report released following



the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise Preparedness and Resilience Intergovernmental Pilot Project.

Thanks to the hard work of local governments, federal partners, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and academic support from Old Dominion University and others, much has been done to implement the recommendations of these studies.

That being said, much work remains to be done. Recommendations from the earlier pilot project and Joint Land Use Studies that are ripe for action include a number of items that require collaboration with the federal government. The establishment of Interagency Regional Coordinators for Resilience positions would be well suited to address persistent challenges that have hindered the “whole of government” and “whole of community” approach that the growing threats require.

As the climate continues to change, lessons learned from these partnerships would be beneficial to defense communities and others that support federal entities and assets of national importance.

Addressing the threat of climate change and ensuring members of the armed services have access to comprehensive mental health services and mechanisms to confidently advocate for their quality of life is not only crucial to ensuring military readiness, addressing these threats is morally imperative.

Lastly, I am pleased that my amendment (Amendment No. 618) regarding the transfer of federal land currently occupied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the City of Norfolk has been included in this package. I am disappointed to lose a valuable asset in my district as they continue their planned move to Rhode Island, and it is important that this economic impact does not further affect the city. Transferring the land without cost to the city and in a timely manner will allow Norfolk and the Army Corps of Engineers to better protect the city from future flooding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for his work on behalf of our Nation's military and his support for these initiatives, and I urge my colleagues to support these important amendments.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF WOODHAVEN POLICE CHIEF ROBERT TOTH

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Robert Toth on the occasion of his retirement from Woodhaven Police Department. His thirty years of service to the Woodhaven community are worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Siena Heights University, the Eastern Michigan University Police Staff and Command School, and the FBI National Academy, Chief Robert Toth began his career as

an intern for the Adrian Police Department, later serving as a Police Officer. On January 13, 1992, he was hired by the Woodhaven Police Department. Over the course of his career, he has served in every position that the department has to offer. In his thirty years at the Woodhaven Police Department, Chief Toth has served as a Patrol Officer, as an Undercover Narcotics Investigator, in the Traffic Bureau, and in the Detective Bureau. As a valued leader in the department, he was promoted to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and then Deputy Chief, finally becoming Chief of Police in August 2017.

In addition to his job at the Woodhaven Police Department, Chief Toth has served as a member of the Downriver SWAT team for twenty-two years before retiring in 2016. He also took time to share his extensive law enforcement experience with others and volunteered as an advisor for the Woodhaven Police Explorers for fourteen years, taught classes at the Wayne County Regional Police Academy, and acted as drill instructor at the State Explorer Academy. Though he may be retiring, Chief Toth remains active in the department's Honor Guard. A treasured mentor and friend, he continues to reside in Woodhaven with his wife Lauren and their two sons.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Chief Robert Toth for his exemplary career in public service at the Woodhaven Police Department. I join with Chief Toth's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service and thank him for his role in protecting our community and the people of Woodhaven for the past three decades. We wish him the best in retirement.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MAJOR NHIA LONG VANG

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2022*

Mr. COSTA, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Nhia Long Vang, a Major in the Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) Secret War in Laos, a husband, father, and a beloved community activist in the Central Valley.

Nhia was born in the farm fields of Laos on October 12, 1939. His parents, Neng Yia Vang and Mai Vang were gifted with six children; the eldest being Nhia. Neng was the Head Chief of the village. Nhia attended first grade and second grade at 19 years old. He was then recruited by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to serve in the “Secret War in Laos” during the Vietnam War. Nhia was promoted to Sergeant by General Vang Pao and attended “Special Guerilla Unit” training in Phitsanulok, Thailand. He reported directly to the Central Intelligence Agency as he carried out top secret missions.

Missions led by Nhia were not unnoticed by his superiors. He led intelligence missions in Ho Chi Minh Trail, Road 7, so they could sur-

veillance the Pathet Lao and Vietnamese armies' operations, reported to CIA headquarters in Laos. Not long after being promoted to Captain in 1969, he was assigned to oversee the Hmong CIA soldiers' unit. Heavy combat fighting was expected in this unit. Despite suffering severe injuries, Nhia survived a shrapnel injury, and in 1970, the troops trained under him were transferred to support the Plains of Jars.

His contributions to helping in the war were endless. Nhia helped in aiding and rescuing American pilots after crashing in the jungle, and after attending special advanced operational military training, he was promoted to Major. His final assignment was supporting the Royal Laos armies in their fight against the Vietnamese army. His bravery, courage, and leadership undoubtedly saved many lives.

Nhia received asylum in Nam Pong, Thailand before relocating to the United States with his family. He married Lee Yang and they had children. In 1972, he married Ka Moua. They he had a loving family raising 13 children. Nhia and his family eventually moved to Missoula, Montana. He cleaned Missoula's canals and after two years, they moved in 1982 to Santa Ana, California before settling in Fresno in 1983.

After serving the Hmong Community as a translator for the health clinic, Nhia returned to his roots and became a farmer mentoring others on how to be successful in selling Southeast Asian vegetables to wholesalers and retailers. Nhia used his experience to help families become self-sufficient while providing resources to health services and education and stressed the importance of voting. He showed unparalleled support, both financial and emotional, to Hmong and Lao veterans and their families. Nhia and I visited the White House and California State Capitol with Charlie Waters and Bill Dietzel, regarding local veteran community affairs. He worked with Dan Payne to have the community represented in the Central Valley Veterans Day Parade. Nhia enjoyed the Hmong New Year celebrations in Fresno and supported many Hmong and Lao cultures. In 2001, he was one of the Hmong Community Organizers campaigning and urging Hmong families to donate in support of the 9/11 families. The group raised over one hundred thousand dollars for the Red Cross.

His service earned him numerous special recognitions and certificates from Congress, the California State Assembly, and the County of Fresno. In 2021, the City of Fresno recognized him for his many accomplishments and service to the community. He educated people on General Vang Pao's legacy every December and advocated for the naming of Vang Pao Elementary School in Fresno. He advocated for the Hmong Language Program in Fresno Unified School District which passed in 2016.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Major Nhia Long Vang of the Special Guerilla Unit (SGU) Secret War in Laos. May we continue to be inspired by his story.